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Letter Opinion No. 62-46-L
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REQUESTED BY: W. W. "Skipper" Dick
Superintendent of Public
Instruction

OPINION BY: Robert W. Pickrell
The Attorney General

QUESTION: May a school district budget
school funds for participation
in the National Safety Council's
School Bus Safety Service?

CONCLUSION: Yes.

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The National Safety Council, a non-profit cooperative association, has as its main goal the prevention of accidents on the public highways. The main objective of the School Bus Safety Service is to assist in effectuating a driver-safety program with the objective of raising the level of safe driving performance by school bus drivers.

A school district within the discretionary powers of its school board may provide transportation for the children of the district (A.R.S. §15-442), and a school board is authorized to purchase public liability and property damage insurance to cover school bus drivers (A.R.S. §15-453). Moreover, a school district may budget funds for transportation. (See line item Transportation in Category V, Auxiliary Agencies, included in A.R.S. §15-1201, as amended.)

Where a school district does provide transportation for its students then it is primarily interested in providing the highest level of safe operation of school buses. The purpose of participation in the National Safety Council's School Bus Safety Service is to achieve this goal.

This office is of the opinion that a school district may budget school funds for participation in the National Safety Council's School Bus Safety Service.

ROBERT W. PICKRELL
The Attorney General

FRANK SAGARINO
Assistant Attorney General

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